

## Plan Name: Puddletown

FE Plan Reference Number: **NEW 107**

FC Geographic Block No **10**

Date of Commencement of Plan: **1 August, 2013**

Plan Period: **1 August, 2013 to 31 July, 2023 (10 years)**

Summary of Activity within Approval Period:

All areas in hectares

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Conifers</b>	<b>Broadleaves</b>	<b>Other Open Space</b>	<b>Heathland or Mire</b>	<b>Total Area</b>
Felling	16.8				<b>16.8</b>
Restocking	12.7				<b>12.7</b>
Other Habitat Restoration				4.1	<b>4.1</b>

Total Plan Area: 301 Ha

### FOREST ENTERPRISE Application for Forest Design Plan Approvals

Forest District: **South England Forest District**

Woodland / Property Name: **Puddletown**

FE Reference Number: **NEW 107**

Nearest town or village: **Portesham**

OS Grid Reference: **SY 739 927 (Centre of Woodland)**

Local Authority: **West Dorset District Council**

I apply for Forest Design Plan approval for the property described above and in the enclosed Forest Design Plan.

I undertake to obtain any permissions necessary for the implementation of the approved Plan.

Signed:

Michael Seddon, Deputy Surveyor, New Forest

Date:

Approved: ..... Conservator

Conservancy:  
.....

Date: .....

## 8. Puddletown NEW 107

### Location (See Location Map)

Puddletown Forest covers a total area of 301 Ha and is located three miles north east of the county town of Dorchester and one mile south west of Puddletown village. The woodland lies on the ridge between the river valleys of the Frome to the south and the Piddle to the north. Most of the woodland south of the ridge top at Green Hill is south east facing. The local topography is quite extreme with narrow steep sided valleys. North of the Green Hill ridge, the slopes are north west facing. Puddletown Forest is now dissected by the deep cutting of the A35 dual carriageway trunk road.

### Landscape Context

Two ancient woodland sites lie adjacent to the forest. Yellowham Wood to the north west and Ilsington Wood to the east. Yellowham Wood is predominantly Oak with Hazel coppice but much of Ilsington Wood has been replanted with conifers. Thorncombe Wood is a predominantly broadleaved woodland to the west of the forest and is currently managed by Dorset County Council. Much of Duddle Heath is under private ownership and is planted with conifers.

The southern boundary of the forest is visible from the minor road but the rhododendron originally planted for ornamentation restricts views into the forest from Rhododendron Mile except for occasional glimpses at gateways. The north of the forest is dissected by a deep cutting carrying the A35 trunk road and the resulting forest boundaries now look unnatural on the skyline. The north west facing slopes are visible from the A35.

### Current Woodland Structure (See Habitat Structure and Age Structure Charts)

The woodland on the more acidic soils is dominated by Douglas Fir, Corsican Pine and Scots Pine. North of the ridge the woodland becomes a mixture of conifers and broadleaves, with Beech and Ash more evident on the calcareous soils. Norway Spruce is planted on localised poorly drained soils in the valley bottoms. Overall Douglas Fir and Corsican Pine occupy approximately 85% of the woodland, 8% is comprised of broadleaves and the remainder is a mixture of other conifer species. Open space is increasing as a result of felling for heathland restoration.

The age structure of the woodland is linked to the date of the original leases. Most of the area leased from Puddletown LLP was planted between 1924 and 1927. Remnants of the original Douglas Fir and pine planting remain in pockets throughout the woodland. Much of the woodland leased in the 1950s dates from this time. Much of the original woodland has been felled from the late 70s until the early 90s and subsequently replanted with Douglas Fir and Corsican Pine.

### Conservation (See Site Designation Map)

The forest lies on the very edge of the Dorset Heaths Natural Area and forms the most westerly example of a Poole Basin Heath site. Remnants of heathland change from the *Calluna/Ulex* minor mix found on the majority of the Poole basin to *Calluna Gallii* mix that is otherwise restricted to the Poole conurbation. Bilberry also occurs in abundance indicating the wetter conditions found in the westerly extremes of the Poole Basin. In addition, this site marks the natural western limit of some rare reptiles, notably the sand lizard and smooth snake.

### Recreation

Puddletown Forest is the largest woodland within ten minutes drive of Dorchester and is signposted from the A35. Retention of sporting rights by the leasor limits the formal provision of recreation facilities in the forest. The forest is crossed by a number of bridleways and ancient trackways lying between historic boundary banks. The comprehensive gravel road network is well used by dog walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Most of the public access is from gateways situated along the Rhododendron Mile or through Black Bottom behind Hardy's Cottage.

The area has strong associations with the novelist Thomas Hardy. The cottage where he was born and lived is situated at Higher Bockampton on the western edge of the forest. The cottage is owned by the National Trust and is a local tourist attraction. During Hardy's time much of the forest would have been heathland and some sites such as the Rainbarrows are referred to in his novel, "Return of the Native"

### Archaeology (See Site Designation Map)

Puddletown Forest contains eight Scheduled Ancient Monuments comprising seven bowl barrows (funerary monuments) and the course of a Roman Road leading eastwards from Dorchester across the forest. A further four bowl barrows, known as rainbarrows, are located along the Duddle Heath ridge. These sites lie just outside FC managed land but are shown on the maps for context.

The Scheduled Monuments have current management plans approved by English Heritage and the sites will be managed in accordance with these management plans.

## Habitat & Age Structure Statistics

### Puddletown

Habitat Type	Present Time (2013)	In 10 Years Time		In 20 Years Time	
	Area (ha)	Area (ha)	Change from Present	Area (ha)	Change from Present
Predominantly Conifer Woodland	223	219	-4	215	-8
Predominantly Broadleaf Woodland	40	40	0	40	0
Heathland	37	41	4	45	8
Wooded Heath	0	0	0	0	0
Open Water Habitat	0	0	0	0	0
Other Open Space	1	1	0	1	0
<b>Total Land Area</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>0</b>



# South Forest District NEW 107 Design Concept

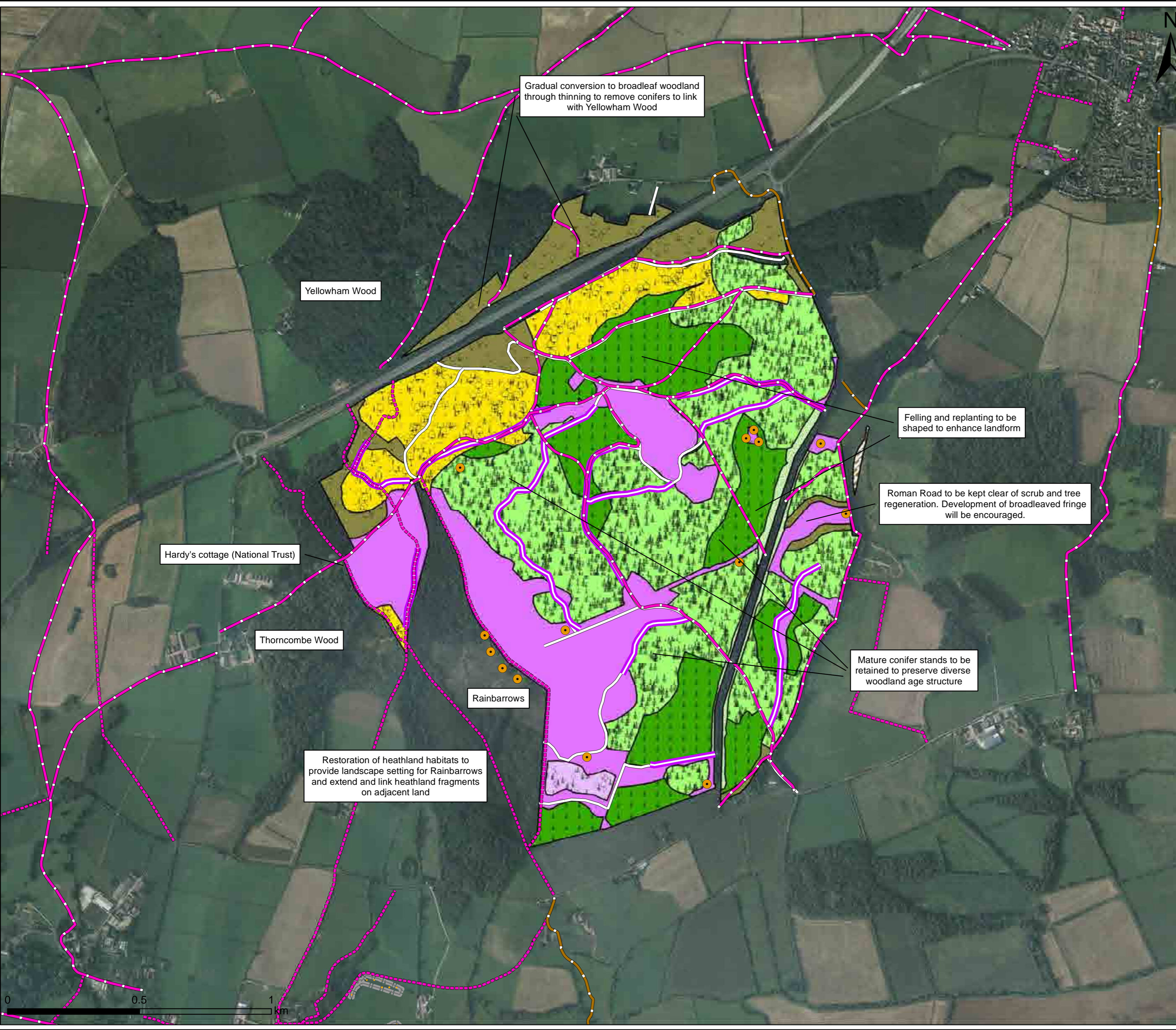


## Puddletown Forest

Illustrates the main features and broad character of the forest in the long term

### Legend

- Scheduled Ancient Monument managed through approved plan
- Unscheduled Ancient Monument
- Bridleway
- Byway open to all traffic
- Footpath
- Heathland ride management
- Forest roads
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Conifer woodland sustained by a cycle of clear felling, replanting and thinning. Woodland will contain a mosaic of open spaces and a diversity of species and age classes to enhance the visual quality.
- Broadleaf woodland to be sustained mainly by natural regeneration to provide a permanent tree cover but at the same time providing a variety of different age and canopy heights. Some small scale felling and replanting may take place where conditions are unsuitable for natural regeneration. Any conifers will be removed over time through thinning or group felling
- Continuous cover mixed woodland sustained by thinning and natural regeneration to produce a permanent tree cover but at the same time providing a variety of different age and canopy heights.
- Continuous cover conifer woodland sustained by thinning and natural regeneration to produce a permanent tree cover but at the same time providing a variety of different age and canopy heights.
- Heathland - areas managed and maintained as open heathland.
- Wooded Heath - areas managed as heathland but with up to 20% tree cover in either isolated groups or individual character trees. Areas have been designated as wooded heath either for landscape purposes or because the area contains a high conifer seed bank that would be difficult to eradicate in the medium to long term and hence meet the criteria for pure heathland.
- Grassland - area maintained as open grassland
- Agricultural land
- Car park / buildings



Gradual conversion to broadleaf woodland through thinning to remove conifers to link with Yellowham Wood

Felling and replanting to be shaped to enhance landform

Roman Road to be kept clear of scrub and tree regeneration. Development of broadleaved fringe will be encouraged.

Mature conifer stands to be retained to preserve diverse woodland age structure

Restoration of heathland habitats to provide landscape setting for Rainbarrows and extend and link heathland fragments on adjacent land

Approved by:

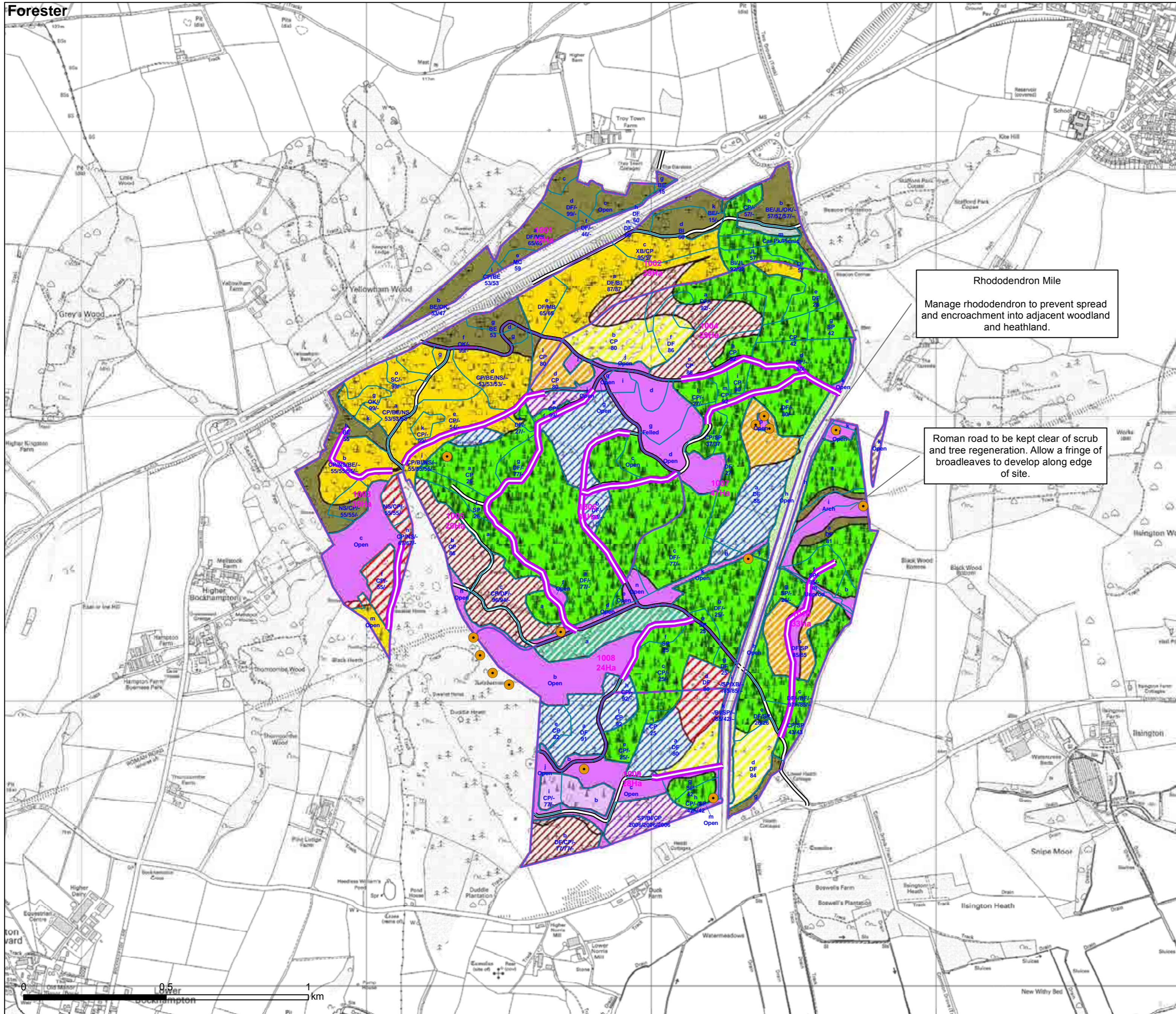
Deputy Surveyor:  
Date:

Conservator:  
Date:



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Map date: 2 May 2013



# Forester

## South Forest District NEW 107

### Felling and Habitat Management

#### Puddletown Forest

Illustrates timing of felling and management proposals within period of plan



- ### Legend
- Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) managed according to approved SAM Plan
  - Unscheduled Ancient Monument - protect during forest operations
  - Heathland ride management
  - Sub-Compartments
  - Compartments
  - Forest roads
  - Felling period 2007-2011
  - Felling period 2012-2016
  - Felling period 2017-2021
  - Felling period 2022-2026
  - Felling period 2027-2031
  - Felling period 2032-2036
  - Felling period 2037-2041
  - Felling period 2042-2046
  - Felling period 2047 & beyond
  - Manage for continuous cover of conifer using a uniform or group shelterwood system to promote natural regeneration.
  - Manage for continuous cover of mixed woodland using a uniform shelterwood system to promote natural regeneration.
  - Manage for continuous cover of broadleaves using a uniform shelterwood system to promote natural regeneration. Any remaining conifers to be removed through phased thinning treatments.
  - Mire (Bog/Marsh) - Remove/keep clear of trees/scrub. Restore hydrological system using drain blocking and bedlevel raising where required. Graze where possible.
  - Streamside Corridors – Manage in accordance with the Forests and Water Guidelines
  - Grassland
  - Heathland - Restore and maintain heathland using traditional heathland management techniques where possible including grazing, controlled burning, bracken control and gorse swiping.
  - Heavily thin to produce heathland flora by retaining wide, irregularly spaced groups and individual character trees
  - Agricultural Land managed by tenancy agreement
  - Managed by Perenco
  - Felled areas to be restocked by planting or natural regeneration
  - Car park / buildings

**Rhododendron Mile**  
Manage rhododendron to prevent spread and encroachment into adjacent woodland and heathland.

Roman road to be kept clear of scrub and tree regeneration. Allow a fringe of broadleaves to develop along edge of site.

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Conservator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Forestry Commission woodlands have been certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.



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# South Forest District NEW 107 Restocking Plan

## Puddletown Forest

Indicative of the structure of the woodlands at the end of the plan period

### Legend

- Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) managed according to approved SAM Plan
- Unscheduled Ancient Monument - protect during forest operations
- Forest roads
- Replant with firs
- Replant with pines
- Natural regeneration of broadleaf woodland
- Natural regeneration of mixed woodland
- Natural regeneration of conifer woodland
- Wooded heath
- Heathland
- Grassland
- Car park / buildings
- Agriculture

### Note:

Restock maps indicate the likely dominant species type within a coupe. In reality, coupes may contain a mixture of different species / components. In order to adapt to climate change and provide a degree of protection against disease, coupes will be restocked with a suitable species mix suited to local site conditions.

Due to the uncertain position with Red Band Needle Blight, and the current FC moratorium on replanting Corsican Pine, no restocking will take place using Corsican Pine.

Approved by:

Deputy Surveyor:  
Date:

Conservator:  
Date:



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